

REMARKS

Rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by “Understanding LDAP” by the International Technical Support Organization. Applicant traverses the Examiner’s finding of anticipation.

The Examiner’s Response to Arguments in the Final Rejection

The Examiner’s understanding and statements about the nature of a directory appear to be correct. Specifically, that something “in” a directory means that it is accessible from the directory, but the end item is not actually stored in the directory. The common language used by those in the computer art, that some thing is “in” a directory is used with this understanding. Those in the art understand that something “in” a directory means that the link to the item is stored in the directory, not the item itself. This ordinary meaning is used herein, and no change in the common usage of the phrase “in a directory” is intended.

Despite the prior paragraph, the Examiner seems to suggest broadly that something is “in” a directory if they are logically associated in such a way as to be accessible from it. In the normal case, this is true. But the normal use of these terms does not extend to multiple levels of association. The protected resources are not “stored in” the directory even though the applications may be able to access them through the proxy entries that are stored “in” the directory. The proxy entries are “in” the directory, meaning that they are associated with the directory in the normal usage of the term. However, the protected resources are not located “in” the directory within the normal usage of the term, even though the protected resources can ultimately be logically associated with the proxy entries through the mapping between protected resources and

proxy entries located in the applications. Applicant believes it would be an inappropriate extension of the normal use of these terms to extend the association of what is in a directory to multiple levels.

In the Final rejection mailed 3/22/2005, the Examiner affirmed the previous rejections supported by additional arguments. In these arguments, the Examiner makes the following statement:

These limitations, “a directory that has a plurality of entries”, and “a logical mapping that correlates each protected resource with a corresponding proxy entry” by definition means that these protected resources which applicant claims are indeed “stored” within the directory. They are logically associated in such a way as to be accessible from the directory.

Applicant believes this statement illustrates a fundamental misunderstanding and/or mischaracterization of the cited art and the applicant’s claimed invention. If the above statement were true, then the bulk of the Examiner’s arguments would logically follow. However, there is an important flaw in the logic of the above statement.

The examiner’s statement quoted above describes two claim elements, and indicates these two elements are stored in the directory. However, a proper interpretation of the language of the claim indicates the two limitations are not both located in the directory, so the conclusion of the examiner’s statement is not correct. The first element in the above statement is “a directory that has a plurality of entries,” which by its own definition refers to entries that are stored in the directory.

A careful reading of claim 1 shows the second claim limitation in the above quoted statement “a logical mapping” is located within the application. The “logical mapping” is not “in” the directory. Therefore, the logical mapping that correlates the protected resource with the proxy entry is not stored in the directory as these terms are

used in their normal sense. And further, the plain meaning would also give the conclusion that the protected resources are not stored in the directory.

The language of claim 1 indicates that the proxy entries are in the directory, the protected resources are outside the directory, and the mapping of protected resources and the proxy entries are in the application. The application can determine whether the application is authorized to access a protected resource outside the directory by using the authentication function to determine if a corresponding proxy entry may be accessed. The corresponding proxy entry is determined from the mapping located in the application. The mapping is not part of the directory.

Applicant believes the cited art does not teach or discuss the invention as claimed and respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of claims 1-12. The cited art does not teach or suggest to use a proxy entry in the directory for the application to determine if it has authorization to access a protected resource that is not stored in the directory. While, the arguments above were specifically directed to claim 1, they apply similarly to the other independent claims. Further, the arguments below give specific responses for the Examiner's rejection of each of the claims.

Claim 1

For the claim limitation "a plurality of protected resources that are not stored within the directory," the Examiner cites page 6, paragraph 5-6. This section of the cited art describes a distributed directory, a directory where different parts of the directory are stored in different locations. The Examiner then suggests that "resources may not be stored within the directory because the directory itself can be decentralized or distributed." This statement lacks normal logic. The Examiner seems to suggest that since the directory is decentralized, then resources in the remote directory portions are not in the directory. But even something that is decentralized has identifiable bounds and

limits. And the bounds and limits of the distributed directory in Understanding LDAP includes all distributed portions of the directory. The cited document is the user's manual for the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP). This manual deals with accessing resources that are *within* the directory, even if the directory is distributed. The cited document does not teach or even suggest protected resources outside the directory. Since the cited art does not teach or suggest using the directory authorization for protecting resources outside the directory, claim 1 is allowable over the cited art.

For the claim limitation:

“an application residing in the memory and executed by the at least one processor, the application including a logical mapping that correlates each protected resource with a corresponding proxy entry, the application determining whether the application is authorized to access a selected protected resource by invoking the authentication and authorization functions in the directory service server to determine whether the proxy entry corresponding to the selected resource may be accessed, and if so, the application accesses the selected protected resource,”

the Examiner cites page 8, paragraph 1 of Understanding LDAP. This section of the cited art describes authorization based on access control lists (ACLs). This portion of the cited art does not teach the above claim limitation. Further, the Examiner has not mapped the teachings of the cited art on the many listed limitations of the claim. The elements not identified by the Examiner include the application in memory, the logical mapping that correlates to a protected resource, the proxy entry, and determining whether the application is authorized to access a selected protected resource by invoking the authentication and authorization functions in the directory service server to determine whether the proxy entry corresponding to the selected resource may be accessed, etc. As a result, the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of anticipation for claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). The cited art does not teach the above limitations. For the reasons given above, claim 1 is allowable over the cited art, and applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claims 2-3

Claims 2-3 depend on claim 1, which is allowable for the reasons given above. As a result, these claims are allowable as depending on an allowable independent claim.

Claim 4

For the claim limitation “identifying a proxy entry that corresponds to the external protected resource,” the Examiner cites page 18, Figure 5 of Understanding LDAP. This portion of the cited art shows results from searching an Internet directory. The Examiner seems to be relying here on the same logic discussed above with reference to claim 1, *i.e.*, that since the directory is decentralized, then resources in the remote directory portions are not in the directory. As discussed above, items in remote portions of a decentralized directory are still within the directory. The cited portion of the reference does not even deal with an external protected resource as recited in claim 4. The cited document is the user’s manual for the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol. This manual deals with resources that are *within* the directory. The cited document does not teach or even suggest making a proxy in the directory for outside resources. Because the cited art does not teach or suggest using the directory authorization for protecting resources outside the directory, claim 4 is in condition for allowance over the cited art, and applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner’s rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claim 5

Claim 5 depends on claim 4, which is allowable for the reasons given above. As a result, claim 5 is allowable as depending on an allowable independent claim.

Claim 6

For the claim limitation “creating a proxy entry in the directory service for each protected resource,” the Examiner cites page 18, Figure 5 of Understanding LDAP. This portion of the cited art shows results from searching an Internet directory. The portion of the cited art does not teach or suggest creating a proxy entry in the directory service for a protected resource outside of the directory. Therefore, claim 6 is allowable over the cited art, and applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner’s rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claim 7

Claim 7 depends on claim 6, which is allowable for the reasons given above. As a result, claim 7 is allowable as depending on an allowable independent claim.

Claim 8

For the claim limitation:

“a software application that uses a logical mapping that correlates a plurality of protected resources that are not stored or contained within the directory with corresponding proxy entries in a directory service that is managed by a directory service server, the application determining whether the application is authorized to access a selected protected resource by invoking authentication and authorization functions in the directory service server to determine whether the proxy entry corresponding to the selected resource may be accessed, and if so, the application accesses the selected protected resource,”

the Examiner cites page 7, section 1.1.4 Directory Security, paragraph 3, and page 8, 1st paragraph. This portion of the cited art describes directory security in general. The portion of the cited art does not teach or suggest a software application that uses a logical mapping that correlates a plurality of protected resources that are not stored or contained within the directory. This portion of the cited art does not teach the above claim

limitations. Further, the Examiner has not mapped the cited art on each and every limitation in the claim. As a result, the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of anticipation for claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Because the cited art does not teach the above limitations, claim 8 is in condition for allowance over the cited art, and applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

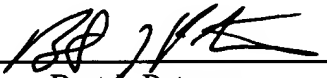
Claims 9-12

Claims 9-12 depend on claim 8, which is allowable for the reasons given above. As a result, claims 9-12 are allowable as depending on an allowable independent claim.

Conclusion

In summary, none of the cited prior art, either alone or in combination, teach, support, or suggest the unique combination of features in applicants' claims presently on file. Therefore, applicants respectfully assert that all of applicants' claims are allowable. Such allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if this would in any way advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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